



Culture Committee Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday Sept 4, 2012  
Committee Room #1, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor City Hall  
5pm - 6:30pm

**Present:** Jen Wallace, Tracy Cotton, Melenie Neamtz, Rick Rochon, Kathy Summers, Wynne Nicholson, Angie Harris, Peter Vietgen, Laurie Sadowski, Mark Elliott, Andrea Wilson

**Regrets:** Sue Morrison, Brian Narhi, Kathy Powell, Debbie Slade, Steve Solski, Lilita Stripnieks

**Staff:** Jason Cadieux, Rebecca Cann, Kim Payne

## 1. Welcome

Tracy welcomed the committee back from summer hiatus and began the meeting.

## 2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda of Sept 4<sup>th</sup> 2012

Made by: M. Elliot

Seconded: P. Vietgen

Carried

## 3. Approval of Minutes for the Meeting of June 5, 2012

Motion: To approve the minutes of June 5<sup>th</sup> 2012

Made by: M. Neamtz

Seconded: R. Rochon

Carried

## 4. Approval of Minutes for the Meeting of July 3, 2012

Motion: To approve the minutes of July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012

Made by: J. Wallace

Seconded: M. Elliot

Carried

## 5. Business Arising

None

## 6. Correspondence

T. Cotton shared correspondence of Elizabeth Fritshaw's resignation with the committee.

Motion: To accept E. Fritshaw's resignation

Made by: W. Nicholson

Seconded: J. Wallace

Carried

## 7. Subcommittee Reports

Arts Awards Committee – W. Nicholson reported that the committee met in August and reviewed award design sketches prepared by Barry Casement, confirmed a date for awards (June 8<sup>th</sup> 2013)



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and brainstormed leads for event sponsors. R. Cann requested a copy of the sketches of the award to circulate internally.

Motion: to accept the revised 2013 arts awards program as circulated in July.

Made by: W. Nicholson

Seconded: A. Harris

Carried

**Action:** J. Cadieux to forward Arts Award concept to R. Cann for review

SCCIP Committee – R. Rochon reported that the committee did not meet over the summer. The SCCIP deadline was August 31<sup>st</sup> at 4:30pm – a total of 25 SCCIP submissions were handed into the Cultural Services offices, and more detail in terms of financial requests will be available at the next meeting.

CP 2020 Cross-Sectoral Steering Committee – J. Wallace reported the committee met twice over the summer to review the State of Culture Report and the culture cafes feedback. The committee is currently waiting for another report from Lord Cultural Resources (LCR). The process continues to move towards a December deadline. R. Cann has received a draft of the Internal Analysis, which is a scan of City departments, plans, policies and committees. Opportunities and challenges are discussed throughout the analysis, as well as gaps and recommendations for further integration of culture within City planning. R. Cann recently met with City staff from other key departments to discuss it and feedback has gone back to LRC and we're awaiting final draft from Lord.

## 8. Reports

Public Art Advisory Committee – P. Vietgen reported that the committee met Aug 16<sup>th</sup> and the director of Recreation and Community Services Rick Lane attended and discussed opportunities for future public art projects at the new spectator facility. The committee continues to work on a War of 1812 sculpture project in partnership with Club LaSalle: the Request for Pre-Qualification has been circulated and submissions are due Sept 12th. The City Hall exhibit has recently been renewed: Civic Art is an exhibit from the City's art collection. The next planned exhibit is in the works - *Capturing Culture* will be photographs documenting various cultural capitals projects. An exhibit documenting the historic relationship between the City and Brock University will be replacing the John G. Williams exhibit (7 years old) outside the Mayor's office later this year. The committee is currently discussing potential themes for the 2013 Juried exhibit at City Hall – suggestions welcome. The committee also recently confirmed their selections for official purchases of art from the RED exhibit: **Seeing Red** by Melanie MacDonald and **Resting Shells** by George Enns. Look for **Kernel Memory** by Toronto-based artist Laura Moore to be installed on the front lawn of City Hall very soon.



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User Group Committee – M. Elliott reported that the construction bids for the Performing Arts Centre were substantially over budget. Everyone involved with the project was shocked by the discrepancy. The site's slope and tightness of build space were issues as well as the cost of cantilevered steel structure, among other issues. The 60.7 million budget was recently reconfirmed by Council and the project team has been directed to find ways of reducing costs. Strategies to reduce costs include value engineering (looking for more cost-effective materials) as well as removing some square footage for the design. The ultimate goal is to reduce costs without affecting character of the building or quality of the performance venues. Any new designs must meet previous agreements with all levels of government. M. Elliott noted that Diamond Schmidt is a world class firm – and there's confidence in their ability to build PAC at the set budget. The revised plan will eventually be presented to the UGC for review and feedback. T. Cotton asked if current deadlines can still be met. M. Elliot confirmed that plans are on track for substantial completion by 2015. The re-bid will take place Dec/Jan, which is the best season for bidding. P. Vietgen asked if other communities have experienced this type of challenge. M. Elliot noted that it's rare that estimates are off by this much – reasonable to expect a variance of 5%. M. Elliot noted that the major challenge for the architects will be to find the medium between value and design.

Report from Cultural Services Office – R. Cann reported that Jane Gardner and Sara Palmieri will soon be making a presentation to Council on the Niagara Arts Inspire Niagara Schools DVD and resource guide. The cNiagara.ca cultural website project is moving forward smoothly thanks to the work of Brent Porter Design Inc. The website will undergo beta testing later in Sept with full launch set for October 16<sup>th</sup>. RCS Manager Kelly Reichheld has left the City of St. Catharines - an interim manager, Eugene Todd, is in place until a full-time replacement can be found. J. Cadieux continues to work on Niagara Nights of Art: Art City – a Cultural Capitals of Canada event organized by the Downtown Association. Event is set to take place Sept 15<sup>th</sup> from 12noon to 10pm and will feature a mix of workshops, music, theatre and media-based public art exhibits. The event will take place along the east end of St. Paul Street from Carlisle to Court. R. Cann continues to transition management of SCCIP to J. Cadieux. J. Cadieux has met with new and existing clients to discuss potential applications. Things are going smoothly despite a few glitches. New cenotaph report will be presented to Council on Sept 24<sup>th</sup>. Two meetings of The Allies Art Selection Team have taken place to date: there are 6 members, including Aboriginal artists Sam Thomas and Shelly Niro. The 2013 Cultural Services budget has been completed and submitted for review. R. Cann is currently working with Rod Dowling's family to schedule the removal of the Circle of Friends sculpture from the front lawn of City Hall. In Kathy Powell's absence, R. Cann encouraged everyone to check out the guided walks on Victoria Lawn cemetery.



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## 9. Other business

With E. Fritshaw's resignation committee should elect a vice chair. T. Cotton asked the committee to consider potential replacement and to email nominations to R. Cann over the coming weeks. M. Elliot asked if we needed a replacement and R. Cann noted that as the committee is oversubscribed so a replacement isn't necessary.

K. Payne – K. Payne requested feedback from the Committee on the last Buskerfest and requested consideration of the following - how do we ensure the City is well represented? How can the new Festivals and Events policy be augmented to ensure City of quality events? Some discussion followed of the committee's experience of the most recent St. Catharines Busker Festival. R. Cann's main concern is how "culture" is being represented and/or interpreted. She noted that this is the rationale for using SCCIP as a first source of review and funding for developing festivals and events. K. Payne encouraged the committee to share any feedback from cultural community after the meeting.

## 10. Roundtable

M. Neamtz - Sept 22nd first annual Community Soccer Cup. Teams are still being assembled. The cost is nominal (\$5 per person) with teams comprised of community groups paired with new-Canadians. This collaborative project is in partnership with multi-cultural centres in the Region. For more information or to sign up contact M. Neamtz at [mbural@folk-arts.ca](mailto:mbural@folk-arts.ca)

P. Vietgen – at 4pm this Friday Artists Talk with Liz Platt on her show at Rodman Hall before exhibit is packed up. All welcome.

A. Wilson – exciting exhibit and workshop opportunity at Balls Falls Conservation area. Iroquois Beadwork visit <http://ballsfalls.ca/iroquois-beadwork-exhibit-begins-september-8th-special-opening-sept-7th/>

Laurie Sadowski – The first Raw Stalk in NOTL was a big hit. Organizers stopped counting at 1200 people.

M. Elliot - Sandy Middleton's family portrait opens at CRAM Gallery this weekend. Exhibit runs to October 2<sup>nd</sup> – visit [www.middletonfolio.viewbook.com](http://www.middletonfolio.viewbook.com) for more information.

## 11. Next Meeting

October 2, 2012– 5:00pm to 6:30pm. Committee Room 1 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor – City Hall

Motion to adjourn meeting

Made by: M. Elliot

Seconded: J. Wallace

Carried (*Meeting terminated at 6:08 pm*)